



# CAMBRIDGE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

14 February 2013

Governor Dannel P. Malloy  
State Capitol  
210 Capitol Avenue  
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

Dear Governor Malloy,

I write to urge you to maintain the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women (PCSW) as a single legislative commission in order that they may carry out their mandate and improve the lives of women in your state. The *distinct* issues affecting women must be solely represented by the PCSW; to do otherwise would be for the General Assembly to under serve and under represent women's interests.

The state of Connecticut leads the nation in so many areas of important legislative matters it is alarming to imagine our neighbor taking such an ill-timed step backwards; one that would immediately and negatively impact thousands of women.

Through our networks and professional affiliations, the programs and policy work of the PCSW is held in extremely high regard and applauded by the other women's commissions represented in all of the New England states. Connecticut has an exemplary commission and a highly qualified and deeply committed director in Teresa Younger.

Were all the women of Connecticut fully equal in terms of financial and economic security or were they fully protected against human trafficking or gender disparity in health care access or were they no longer experiencing a lack of representation in leadership positions in government and the private sector, or were policies in place that allowed them to better balance work and family demands and commitments then one might consider dismantling the PCSW. Yet those of us who fight for women's equal place in the world—whether it's locally, at the state level, or federally—know the work must continue; women have not yet reached equal footing and until we do the PCSW, the commission that tirelessly works to improve the lives of Connecticut women, is a necessary, critical component of representative government.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Sansoucy  
Executive Director